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#### Key indicators

Single-crystal X-ray study T = 293 K Mean  $\sigma$ (C–C) = 0.003 Å R factor = 0.032 wR factor = 0.084 Data-to-parameter ratio = 21.0

For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see http://journals.iucr.org/e.

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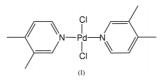
In the title compound, *trans*-[PdCl<sub>2</sub>( $C_7H_9N$ )<sub>2</sub>], the Pd atom lies on a crystallographic inversion centre and adopts a perfect square-planar coordination, with two chloride ligands at 2.2957 (6) Å and two N atoms of the 3,4-lutidine molecules at 2.0252 (17) Å from the Pd atom.

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# Comment

The title compound, (I), was prepared in the course of our studies as a precursor to other palladium compounds. The easy access to suitable single crystals allowed us to carry out an X-ray diffraction study.



The Pd atom lies on an inversion centre and the ligands are therefore arranged in a *trans*-geometry. The Cl-Pd-N angles are 89.95 (6) and 90.05 (6)°, and the Cl-Pd-Cl<sup>i</sup> and N-Pd-N<sup>i</sup> angles are precisely 180° [symmetry code: (i) -x, -y, -z]. These structural parameters imply a prefect square-planar geometry around the Pd<sup>II</sup> centre. The Pd-Cl and Pd-N distances are 2.2957 (6) and 2.0252 (17) Å, respectively. These bond lengths are comparable to those observed in *trans*-[PdCl<sub>2</sub>(pyridine)<sub>2</sub>], (II) (Viossat *et al.*, 1993), *trans*-[PdCl<sub>2</sub>(2,6lutidine)<sub>2</sub>], (III) (Losier *et al.*, 1996), and *trans*-[PdCl<sub>2</sub>(2,Etpyridine)<sub>2</sub>], (IV) (Biagini *et al.*, 1999). In (I), the Pd/N/Cl plane makes an angle of 55.2 (1)° with the plane formed by the 3,4lutidine ligands, in contrast to the situations in (III) and (IV), where the aromatic rings are nearly orthogonal to the coordination plane.

# **Experimental**

The title compound was isolated as a by-product of the reaction of the dimeric complex  $[(\eta^3 \text{-Ind})\text{Pd}(\mu\text{-Cl})]_2$  (Ind is indene) (200 mg, 0.39 mmol) with 3,4-lutidine (88 µl, 0.78 mmol) in diethyl ether (20 ml) at room temperature. After stirring for 45 min, a yellow powder precipitated and was isolated by filtration. Recrystallization of a small portion of this solid from a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution yielded crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction study.

Crystal data	
$[PdCl_2(C_7H_9N)_2]$	$D_x = 1.667 \text{ Mg m}^{-3}$
$M_r = 391.60$	Mo $K\alpha$ radiation
Monoclinic, $P2_1/n$	Cell parameters from 25
a = 8.2331 (9)  Å	reflections
b = 7.0910(5) Å	$\theta = 15.030.0^{\circ}$
c = 13.5417 (13)  Å	$\mu = 1.52 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
$\beta = 99.338 \ (8)^{\circ}$	T = 293 (2)  K
$V = 780.10 (13) \text{ Å}^3$	Block, orange-yellow
Z = 2	$0.60 \times 0.54 \times 0.30 \text{ mm}$

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# metal-organic papers

## Data collection

Siemens P4 diffractometer  $\theta$ -2 $\theta$  scans Absorption correction:  $\psi$  scan (North et al., 1968)  $T_{min} = 0.415$ ,  $T_{max} = 0.630$ 7236 measured reflections 1886 independent reflections 1755 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ 

## Refinement

Refinement on  $F^2$   $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.032$   $wR(F^2) = 0.084$  S = 1.181886 reflections 90 parameters H-atom parameters constrained

#### Table 1

Selected geometric parameters (Å, °).

Pd-N	2.0252 (17)	C2-C3	1.404 (3)
Pd-Cl	2.2957 (6)	C2-C6	1.498 (3)
N-C1	1.342 (3)	C3-C4	1.375 (3)
N-C5	1.346 (3)	C3-C7	1.504 (3)
C1-C2	1.384 (3)	C4-C5	1.384 (4)
N <sup>i</sup> -Pd-N	180	C1-C2-C3	118.2 (2)
N-Pd-Cl	89.95 (6)	C1-C2-C6	119.9 (2)
N-Pd-Cl <sup>i</sup>	90.05 (6)	C3-C2-C6	121.9 (2)
Cl-Pd-Cl <sup>i</sup>	180	C4-C3-C2	118.1 (2)
C1-N-C5	118.31 (19)	C4-C3-C7	120.5 (2)
C1-N-Pd	121.93 (14)	C2-C3-C7	121.4 (2)
C5-N-Pd	119.76 (16)	C3-C4-C5	120.6 (2)
N-C1-C2	123.3 (2)	N - C5 - C4	121.5 (2)

 $R_{\rm int} = 0.039$ 

 $\theta_{\rm max} = 28.0^\circ$ 

 $\begin{array}{l} k = -9 \rightarrow 9 \\ l = -17 \rightarrow 17 \end{array}$ 

 $h = -10 \rightarrow 10$ 

3 standard reflections

+ 0.2651P] where  $P = (F_o^2 + 2F_c^2)/3$ 

 $(\Delta/\sigma)_{\rm max} < 0.001$  $\Delta \rho_{\rm max} = 0.39 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$ 

 $\Delta \rho_{\min} = -1.74 \text{ e} \text{ Å}^{-3}$ 

every 97 reflections

intensity decay: none

 $w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0481P)^2]$ 

Symmetry code: (i) -x, -y, -z.

All H atoms were placed in calculated positions, with C–H distances of 0.93 (phenyl) and 0.96 Å (methyl), and were included in the refinement in riding-model approximation, with  $U_{\rm iso} = 1.5U_{\rm eq}$  for methyl H atoms and  $1.2U_{\rm eq}$  for all others. In the final difference Fourier map, the first peak (0.39 e Å<sup>-3</sup>) were located 0.87 Å from the Pd atom and the the general background was found to be less than 0.37 e Å<sup>-3</sup>.

#### Figure 1

View of the title molecule. Displacements ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level and H atoms have been omitted. The unlabelled part of the molecule is related by the symmetry code (-x, -y, -z).

Data collection: XSCANS (Siemens, 1995); cell refinement: XSCANS; data reduction: XSCANS; program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS97 (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL97 (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: SHELXTL (Bruker, 1997); software used to prepare material for publication: UdMX (local program).

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